

SO YOU WANT TO MOVE TO MEXICO? - immigration essentials -

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BASIC RULES

- Foreigners need a visa while in Mexico.
- One person, one visa.
- Family can “hang” on visa holder or Mexican citizenship of relative.
- Immigration cases are unique. General rules have several exceptions and variations.



TYPES OF VISAS

- Visitant.
- Temporary Resident.
- Permanent Resident.

*All three could get permit for “paid work” and “hang-on” family visa, under certain circumstances.

*All three allow multiple departures and entrances to Mexico. Resident visas are yearly renewed.



TYPES OF VISAS

- Visitant. Allows holder to stay in Mexico for up to 6-month period. Used for temporary employees, persons in adoption proceedings in Mexico, humanitarian and academic reasons (and family), among others.



TYPES OF VISAS

- Temporary Resident. Allows holder to stay in Mexico for up to 4 years. Used for employees, freelancers, entrepreneurs and students (and family), among others.



TYPES OF VISAS

- Permanent Resident. Allows holder to stay in Mexico for undetermined period of time. Used for temporary residents with 4 years in Mexico (and family), and for foreigners with Mexican family.



RESTRICTED COUNTRIES

- Some countries are considered restricted.
- These citizens must hold a visa before entering Mexico.
- There is a more strict protocol for visa authorization.



NON-RESTRICTED COUNTRIES

- These citizens can travel to Mexico and obtain a visitant visa at port of entrance (airport, seaport or land border).
- However, a visa exchange is needed for contracts, business representation, banks and appear before authorities (i.e. government procurement).
- Authorization is faster, even automatic.



CHANGES IN VISAS

- All visas are granted for specific activity, time and/or work.
- Any change has to be applied for or notified.
- Immigration may or may not grant changes.



TIMES & COSTS

- Restricted countries take up to 5 months.
- Non-restricted up to 3 months.
- Delays are common in holiday seasons.
- Average government fee is \$250 USD a year.



WHEN TO HIRE A LAWYER?

- First timers. Filling government formats in Spanish could be tricky.
- Citizens of restricted nationalities are difficult proceedings.
- Busy people. Expect to spend around 5 full days in preparing, filing and following-up.



WHEN TO HIRE A LAWYER?

- People who plan travelling during the visa proceeding. A special permit is issued for traveling during authorization proceeding.
- Irregular immigration status in Mexico.
- Families. Those visas could or could not apply for batch proceeding.



ACQUIRING MEXICAN CITIZENSHIP

- Residents with uninterrupted residency time in Mexico may apply for citizenship.
- Mexico allows double citizenship in some cases.



ACQUIRING MEXICAN CITIZENSHIP

- Residents need 5 years in Mexico to apply.
- Time reduces to 2 years when:
 - Having Mexican parents, spouses or children.
 - Come from Latin America or Spain.
- Time reduces to 1 year for adopted children.



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